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Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science
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2-8-2012

BESS 2/8/12

Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Sciences

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**BETHE
BESS**
BIOSYSTEMS * ENGINEERING * SOIL SCIENCE
YOU CAN BE

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
INSTITUTE of
AGRICULTURE

BESS welcomes Dr. Sean Schaeffer



UT's department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science welcomes its newest faculty member, Dr. Sean Schaeffer. Dr. Schaeffer gave an introduction to his research and areas of interest Friday, February 3. Schaeffer recently moved to Knoxville from Santa Barbara, California where he conducted his post-doctoral work.

Now that Schaeffer is at UT, he would like to continue his research into the effects of drought on biogeochemical cycles of carbon and nitrogen and the effects of warming on these same cycles in arctic soils.

"I would like to be able to expand my research to look at the sustainability and carbon sequestration potential of bioenergy production while at UT. I am also excited at the prospect of collaborating with scientists in our department, the wider UT campus and Oak Ridge National Labs as well," said Schaeffer.

Schaeffer is originally from West Virginia. He attended the University of Utah in Salt Lake City for his B.S. in Biology/Chemistry. Schaeffer received his M.S. for rangeland management from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Arkansas.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work at a place with such a large and diverse campus community," said Schaeffer.



TSINGHUA ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP

Do you want to experience something new this summer? Have you ever thought about traveling to Beijing? Are you interested in teaching English to Chinese students? Why not combine these interests and apply to be a participant in the Tsinghua English Summer Camp for 2012!

Faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduates are eligible to apply. Lodging, food, and a stipend are provided. Participants only need to pay for the plane ticket, visa, and personal expenses. Dates of Summer Camp: 3 weeks (end of June-middle of July)

The Center for International Education will hold an information session.

Date: February 9 at 3:30pm and February 15 at 4pm Location: Programs Abroad Resource Room

Applications are now open for teachers and will close on February 15. Don't miss your opportunity to take part in this fantastic experience!

To apply: go to <https://studyabroad.utk.edu/?go=Tsinghuacampteachers>

The Tsinghua English Summer Camp is one of the largest language summer camps in the world! Approximately 3200 Chinese students between their freshman and sophomore year will attend the camp on Tsinghua's campus in Beijing, China. The goal is to increase the Chinese students' interest and enthusiasm for learning English as well as to improve basic reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The Chinese students will be taught by teachers and student volunteers from numerous colleges and universities in the US. UTK has been invited to send a contingent of teachers and volunteers to participate in their 3 week summer camp. The UTK group will be selected through a competitive process. The camp will be an intensive English language experience for all the Chinese participants. Each day will be devoted to a variety of activities, formal classroom instruction, lectures and various activities including singing, speech competition practice, skits, games, and other performances.

Contact: Alisa Meador, Center for International Education (ameador2@utk.edu)



ASABE meeting and resume workshop

• 2/20 5:15 PM BSE room 268

ASABE Lawnmower cleanup event

• 3/1-3/7 email [Erick Foster](mailto:Erick.Foster@utk.edu) for more information

Hill Lecture on Science, Society, and the Mass Media

• 3/13 8:00 PM in the UC

Spring Break

• 3/16

BESS Research Symposium

• 4/17 3:30 PM Hollingsworth Auditorium

BESS Awards Banquet

• 4/18 6:00 PM in Hollingsworth Auditorium



Undergraduate Research Opportunity

Dynamics of Water and Societal Systems An Interdisciplinary Research Program at the Virginia Tech

STREAM Lab 2012 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) June 4 – August 10 Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia Application will be Reviewed Starting February 29th, 2012

Applications are invited from qualified and motivated undergraduate students (rising sophomores, juniors and seniors) from all U.S. colleges/universities to participate in a novel, interdisciplinary, 10-week summer research program at Virginia Tech centered within the university's Stream Research, Education, and Management Laboratory (StREAM Lab) <https://sites.google.com/site/stroublescreek/>.

All REU fellows will serve within several interconnected group projects dealing with issues of water sustainability, ecosystem resilience, and environmental stewardship. As our REU fellows address their specific research questions, they will be mentored by interdisciplinary faculty groups, providing them with a rich and unique perspective on their specific target issues, as well as a more mature and holistic view of watershed management. U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents are eligible to apply. Successful applicants may be current students in a number of relevant engineering, science, and social science undergraduate disciplines. The research program is funded through the National Science Foundation – Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) program.

The 10-week internship will begin on June 03, 2012 (arrival day) at Virginia Tech and end on August 10, 2012 (departure day). The research internship includes a stipend of \$4000, subsistence costs (dormitory and most of the meals) and round trip travel expenses (up to \$500) per person to Virginia Tech. In addition, expenses will be covered for travel to a conference, most likely the American Ecological Engineering Society conference in Syracuse, NY (June 7-9).

For application materials and more information: www.bse.vt.edu/streamreu <<http://www.bse.vt.edu/streamreu>> Application materials should be submitted via email to: streamreu@vt.edu Research Activities: Although specific research questions will differ for each cohort of fellows, this REU will broadly focus on introducing students to the complex interactions between the natural Stroubles Creek watershed system and the upland anthropomorphic influences of the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech communities. Fellows will also be encouraged to develop critical thinking and communication skills through a series of "Society and Science" evening lectures and discussions designed to promote cross-disciplinary interactions and networking, and through the guided design of outreach activities intended to engage minority middle school students in summer science camps.

We will begin reviewing application submission on February 29, 2012. Successful applicants will be informed by March 19, 2012. Please contact Dr. W. Cully Hession (540-231-9480; chession@vt.edu) or Dr. Leigh Anne Krometis (540-231-4372; krometis@vt.edu) for more information or with any questions. [NSF-Engineering Education and Centers #1156688]



Funding Opportunity

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Letter of Intent to Agency | NA |
| Proposal to Sponsored Programs | 3/13/2012 |
| Submission to Agency | 3/20/2012 |
| Estimated Award Amount | \$12-15M |
| Anticipated No. of Awards | 1 |
| Cost Share | No |
| Link to Opportunity | Here |

The purpose of the Agro-Inputs project is to stimulate agricultural development to increase production and productivity, to reduce rural poverty and to improve food security in the southern delta of Bangladesh. The project will achieve this goal by directly supporting private sector activities that result in the improved availability, quality and safe usage of agricultural inputs, such as: fertilizer, seed, pesticides which improve yields, mitigate environmental degradation at the farm level and improve product quality and export opportunities. Additionally, this project will provide enhanced access to and knowledge of agricultural inputs so that both male and female farmers can become educated consumers and can purchase appropriate quality inputs from trusted supply sources.

The Agro-Inputs Project seeks to establish a sustainable Agricultural Input Retailers' Network (AIRN), enhance market information systems, improve quality control standards and build the capacity of local organizations through facilitation of the creation of a network of privately owned agricultural input retailers in the target area across twenty districts in southern Bangladesh establishing respective forward and backward sector linkages between agricultural input

producers, importers, wholesalers and retailers in order to improve the supply of quality inputs sold on a commercial basis.

For detailed information about this opportunity please see the full solicitation. Please contact Sponsored Programs (4-3466) with questions regarding proposal submission requirements.